

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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FOR US REP TO UNICEF EXBD MICHAEL N. SCELSI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: SPEECH BY PETER G. BOURNE TO UNICEF
WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI AND BOURNE
REF: STATE 115201

1. FOLLOWING IS ADDRESS TO BE DELIVERED MAY 23 TO UNICEF
EXECUTIVE BOARD IN MANILA BY DR. PETER G. BOURNE, SPECIAL
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT.

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QUOTE: MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. LABOUISSSE, AND MEMBERS OF THE
UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD:

- I WANT TO BEGIN BY FIRST CONVEYING THE PERSONAL
GREETINGS OF PRESIDENT CARTER ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE, FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HEALTH
AND WELL BEING OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN. YOU MAY BE
INTERESTED IN THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S MOTHER WORKED
IN FAMILY PLANNING IN THE PEACE CORPS, AND HIS WIFE,
ROSALYNN, IS ALSO DEEPLY INTERESTED IN HEALTH. MRS CARTER

WILL SOON TRAVEL TO A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, DURING WHICH SHE HOPES TO VISIT A UNICEF PROJECT. ALSO, ONLY 2 WEEKS AGO DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT, IN A MESSAGE TO THE

ASSEMBLY STATED, QUOTE WE WILL WORK TOGETHER WITH ALL NATIONS TO CONTROL DISEASE, IMPROVE NUTRITION, AND RAISE THE QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF LIFE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. END QUOTE I WANTED TO MENTION THIS TO INDICATE THE STRONG INTEREST AND PERSONAL COMMITMENT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE WORK YOU ARE ENGAGED IN. HE HAS ASKED ME TO READ TO YOU THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

- QUOTE THIS IS TO CONVEY, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, MY SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH UNICEF STANDS.

- THE VERY IMPORTANT PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE MEMBERS OF UNICEF IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ME IN THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION IS DEDICATED TO THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE TO BE FREE OF POVERTY AND HUNGER AND DISEASE. THE SPECIAL EMPHASIS YOU PLACE ON MEETING THE HUMAN NEEDS OF CHILDREN, THE FUTURE LEADERS OF THE WORLD, MAKE YOUR EFFORTS EVEN THAT MUCH MORE ESSENTIAL TO THE GOAL OF SEEKING HUMAN FREEDOM AND
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DIGNITY FOR ALL MANKIND.

- THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES END QUOTE

- THERE IS PROBABLY NO SINGLE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION MORE WELL KNOWN AND HIGHLY REGARDED IN MY COUNTRY THAN THE ONE KNOWN BY THE FAMILIAR ACRONYM OF UNICEF. THE WORK OF YOUR ORGANIZATION TO HELP THE NEEDY AND DESERVING CHILDREN OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, HAS ALWAYS HELD THE SPECIAL ATTENTION, AND AFFECTION, OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS.

- AS YOU KNOW MY COUNTRY WAS PRIVILEGED TO BECOME AN EARLY AND STRONG SUPPORTER OF UNICEF'S WORK TO ASSIST LESS FORTUNATE AREAS OF THE WORLD. TODAY WE CONTINUE TO ASSIST, BOTH THROUGH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS, UNICEF'S PROGRAMS FOR BETTER HEALTH, NUTRITION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND EDUCATION AMONG CHILDREN IN SCORES OF COUNTRIES.

- MUCH MORE, OF COURSE, REMAINS TO BE DONE IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN OUR GOAL OF PROVIDING BASIC SERVICES FOR CHILDREN EVERYWHERE. MILLIONS OF CHILDREN STILL DIE AT CHILDBIRTH OR SUFFER EARLY DEATHS THROUGH

INFANT STARVATION, NEGLECT AND DISEASE. TOO MANY MORE
ARE DENIED THE FULLNESS AND RICHNESS OF LIFE THROUGH

INADEQUATE DIETS, DEBILITATING PARASITIC INFECTIONS,
LINGERING DISEASES, AND LACK OF EDUCATION. IN SOME
REMOTE AREAS WE STILL, UNFORTUNATELY, DO NOT EVEN
KNOW WHAT OUR CHILDREN'S NEEDS ARE.

- THE WORLD CANNOT AFFORD, AND WE CANNOT TOLERATE,
DEPLORABLE HEALTH CONDITIONS ANY LONGER, FOR THE MEANS
TO ALLEVIATE THEM ARE AT HAND. WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE
THAT, GIVEN SUFFICIENT PRIORITY IN NATIONAL HEALTH
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PLANNING, ADEQUATE CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN CAN BE
PROVIDED. AND WE KNOW THAT UNICEF, WORKING CLOSELY
WITH RELATED INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, CAN PROVIDE NECES-
SARY EXTERNAL RESOURCES TO TACKLE MANY PROBLEMS INVOLVING
CHILDREN'S BASIC NEEDS.

- LET ME MENTION AT LEAST TWO PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
AREAS WHERE THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES WE NEED TO CON-
CENTRATE OUR EFFORTS:

- THE FIRST MAJOR AREA CONCERNS MALNUTRITION. AN
ADEQUATE DIET IS OFTEN THE KEY FACTOR IN HELPING
CHILDREN TO WARD OFF INFECTIOUS DISEASE. IT IS
ESTIMATED BY RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES THAT 10 MILLION
CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUFFER
FROM SEVERE PROTEIN/CALORIE DEFICIENCY; ANOTHER 80
MILLION SUFFER ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS GRIEVOUSLY; AND A
THIRD GROUP NUMBERING INTO THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS
DO NOT HAVE THE MINIMUM DIET PRESCRIBED FOR THE
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. MANY SUFFER VITAMIN DEFICIENCY
DISEASES. UNICEF, OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, AND
INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING MUCH TO ALLEVIATE THIS
BLEAK PICTURE. BUT WE CAN AND MUST DO MORE.

- THE SECOND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AREA IS COMPREHEN-
SIVE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES. FAMILIES MUST
BE PROVIDED WITH EDUCATION AND MEANS TO ASSURE
RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD, TO LIMIT THEIR FAMILY TO THE
SIZE THEY CAN PROVIDE FOR. PREGNANT AND LACTATING
WOMEN MUST BE PROVIDED MEDICAL AND NUTRITIONAL
SERVICES TO SAFEGUARD THEIR OWN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S
HEALTH. INFANTS AND PRESCHOOLCHILDREN MUST BE PRO-
VIDED WITH PREVENTIVE AND CURATIVE MEDICAL SERVICES.
LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE MORE THAN 80 MILLION
CHILDREN BORN EACH YEAR ARE BEING IMMUNIZED AGAINST
PREVENTABLE DISEASES. A MAJOR EFFORT IS NEEDED
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DURING THESE CRITICAL PERIODS OF HIGH RISK IF OUR CHILDREN ARE TO SURVIVE AND GROW TO DEVELOP THEIR FULL HUMAN POTENTIAL.

- THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF UNICEF PROGRAMS AS THEY HAVE DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS. WE BELIEVE THE CONCEPT OF QUOTE BASIC SERVICES, END QUOTE PROVIDING A GROUP OF RELATED, MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN, IS SOUND AND DESERVES OUR SUPPORT. WE WILL JOIN OTHERS IN SUPPORT OF MEASURES THAT WILL HELP GIVE THE WORLD'S POOR MAJORITY ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES REQUIRED FOR GOOD HEALTH.

- OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE WELCOMED OTHER COUNTRIES' INCREASED SHARING OF THE FINANCIAL BURDEN FOR UNICEF. IN 1975 UNICEF REACHED A GOAL OF DOLLARS 100 MILLION IN EXPENDITURES FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES; LAST FALL THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROPOSED A NEW GOAL OF DOLLARS 200 MILLION. I UNDERSTAND THAT MR. LABOUISSSE HAS SUGGESTED WE REACH THIS TARGET BY 1979, THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD.

- I HARDLY NEED TO TELL YOU THAT THIS WILL ONLY DEAL WITH A MERE FRACTION OF THE PROBLEM. MUCH OF THE INCREASED EXPENDITURES, AND THE EFFORT, WILL OF NECESSITY HAVE TO COME FROM THE INDIVIDUAL NATIONS AFFECTED. BUT UNICEF, IN HELPING TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEMS, IN DESIGNING PROGRAMS, AND IN PROVIDING THE TRAINING AND INITIAL SUPPORT, WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A CENTRAL CATALYTIC ROLE FOR MANY YEARS.

- IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S FIRST BUDGET MESSAGE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS THIS YEAR, HE REQUESTED INCREASED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS, MOST OF WHICH GO TO HELP THE DEVELOPING WORLD MEET ITS BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. SIG-

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NIFICANT ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN MY COUNTRY WILL BE ENCOURAGED FROM PRIVATE SOURCES.

- AS A DEMONSTRATION OF U.S. COMMITMENT TOWARD A STRONG UNICEF, AND IN SUPPORT OF ITS EXCELLENT WORK, THE PRESIDENT WILL SOON ASK OUR CONGRESS, IN ADDITION TO THE DOLLARS 20 MILLION ALREADY REQUESTED, TO INCREASE MY GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO UNICEF BY AN ADDITIONAL 25 PERCENT, FOR A TOTAL OF DOLLARS 25

MILLION FOR 1978.

- MONEY ALONE, OF COURSE, WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT.
SOUND MANAGEMENT, CONCENTRATION ON QUALITY PROGRAMS,
AND DEDICATED PEOPLE ARE ESSENTIAL.

- " - I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE WITH THESE THOUGHTS: OUR
INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD CAN NO LONGER
TOLERATE THE APPROXIMATELY ONE BILLION PEOPLE WHO
LIVE IN ABSOLUTE POVERTY, HUNGER AND DESPAIR. NOT
ONLY IS THIS INTOLERABLE TO OUR SENSE OF JUSTICE,
BUT CONTINUATION OF THIS DISPARITY BETWEEN RICH AND
POOR CAN ONLY LEAD TO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UPEHAVAL
THAT INEVITABLY WILL LEAD TO FURTHER HUMAN SUFFERING.

- FURTHERMORE, THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES TO ALL
NATIONS OF MALNUTRITION AMONG SO MANY PEOPLE WILL
PERPETUATE THE WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS AND FURTHER
EXACERBATE POLITICAL UNREST.

- THERE IS SIMPLY NO ALTERNATIVE TO ANY MEMBERS
THAN TO SUPPORT A GLOBAL POLICY OF IMPROVED HEALTH,
NUTRITION, AND MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES.
PRESIDENT CARTER RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF A
HUMAN NEEDS POLICY AND HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO
DEMONSTRATE HIS COMMITMENTS IN THIS AREA.

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- IT IS WITH THESE THOUGHTS THAT I CLOSE AND
DEDICATE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO THE TASK OF
HELPING CHILDREN THROUGH UNICEF.

END QUOTE OF SPEECH

2. EMBASSY AND USIS SHOULD EXTEND ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE
TO DELEGATION TO FACILITATE DR. BOURNE'S SUCCESSFUL
VISIT AND TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY FROM VISIT.

3. WE CANNOT OVER-EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF BOURNE
SPEAKING AS EARLY IN MORNING AS YOU CAN ARRANGE.

4. SPEECH SHOULD BE EMBARGOED UNTIL TIME OF DELIVERY. CHRISTOPHER

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